



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/589,813	06/09/00	TAMAI	J 05.C14549

005514 MM91/1003
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EXAMINER

ADDISON, K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED:

10/03/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/589,813	TAMAI, JUN	
	Examiner Karen B Addison	Art Unit 2834	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 3 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claims 7 and 9. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tamai (6140741).

Tamai discloses a vibration wave driving apparatus comprising: a vibration member (4) formed by an elastic member (5,6) having an electro- mechanical energy conversion element fixed thereto, and having a through-hole (11a) in the central portion thereof; a vibration member supporting member (3) fixed to the vibration member; a rotary member (8) being in pressure contact with said vibration member, and having a through-hole (1a) in the central portion thereof;

An output shaft (2) extending through the through- hole of the vibration member and the rotary member, rotatable with the rotary member, the output shaft supporting the vibration member in said through-holes;

a case (16) packaging the vibration member and the rotary member therein, and supporting the vibration member with the end portion of the vibration member supporting member fixed; and

a plurality of bearings (10 and 11) for supporting the output shaft provided in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamai (6140741) in view of Kanazawa (5739623).

Tamai discloses all the above structural limitation of paragraph 2 including a bearing(10,11) made of resin and supported by the output shaft(2). However, Tamai dose not disclose sliding bearing.

Kanazawa teaches in fig. 17 and 21 a vibration motor comprising: a vibration member, a rotary member (7), a output shaft (5c), supporting member (10) and sliding bearing (13, and 112) disposed substantially at the node position of the vibration member) made of resin (13, and 112) disposed on the output shaft for the purpose of vibrating in the thrust direction. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the vibration wave actuator of Tamai with the teaching of the bearing mechanism of Kanazawa for the purpose of obtaining a stable out-put and a reduction in noise.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen B Addison whose telephone number is 703-306-5855. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 703-308-1317. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3431 for regular communications and 703-305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

KBA
September 30, 2001



NESTOR RAMIREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000